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turned to New Orleans, descending the Ohio in a skiff, and, after a year's teaching, sailed, in 1826, from that city for Liverpool.

England accorded Audubon the recognition which America had denied him. Within five months of his arrival the engraver began work upon the first of his plates, the Turkey Cock, which, shown the size of life, established the scale of his great folios. The succeeding three years were more than occupied with making drawings and securing subscribers for his work, for it must be remembered that Audubon launched his magnificent enterprise on a capital of enthusiasm and conviction, the product of genius aflame, and for the thirteen years it was in press he lived, as it were, from subscriber to engraver.

In 1829 Audubon sailed for America; in 1830, after visiting various cities in quest of subscribers, he sailed for Liverpool. The following year was passed in London and Edinburgh, and in August, 1831, he again returned to the fields and forests whence he acquired both his information and inspiration. The winter of 1831 was passed on the south Atlantic coast, where, at Charleston, he first met his subsequent collaborator John Bachman. In the spring of 1832 he explored the Florida Keys, and in the summer of the same year, the coasts of Maine and New Brunswick. Labrador was visited the following year and in April, 1834, he crossed the Atlantic and, settling in Edinburgh, resumed work upon his *Ornithological Biography*, the text which accompanied his plates.

Returning to America in August, 1836, Audubon passed the winter drawing at Charleston, and in the spring of the following year travelled overland to New Orleans and thence cruised along the Gulf to Galveston. In July of the same year he sailed for the fourth and last time to England, where he remained until the completion of his work in 1839.

The years 1840-1842, spent in New York City, were devoted to the preparation and production of a seven-volume octavo edition of his *Birds of America*, a canvassing tour to Quebec, to work upon his *Quadrupeds of North America*, and to planning his trip of 1843 up the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers.

The succeeding three years were given to making the illustrations for the last-named work (of which Bachman supplied the text). In 1847 he was forced to lay aside brush and pen. For more than a quarter of a century he had worked, as it were, under forced draft. With failing powers even the fires of genius waned and four years later he died at his home on the Hudson.

The Ashley-Smith Explorations and the Discovery of a Central Route to the Pacific, 1822-1829. With the Original Journals, edited by HARRISON CLIFFORD DALE, Professor of Political Science in the University of Wyoming. (Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark Company. 1918. Pp. 352. \$5.00.)

GENERAL WILLIAM H. ASHLEY and Jedediah Smith are familiar figures to the student of the history of the fur-trade. Professor Dale

has added details here and there, has corrected minor errors of earlier writers, and has made accessible 130 pages of original material, but the main outlines of our previous conceptions remain unchanged. The documents make it possible to trace with accuracy most of the route of Ashley in 1824-1825, to fill in the movements of Smith and his men in southern California during December, 1826, and January, 1827, and to correct about 250 miles of the route which the Smith party traversed in 1828. The biographies are accurate, detailed, and well documented, but are rather heavy reading. As an historian the author appears to be lacking in perspective, a fault which may be corrected by a more extended examination of the voluminous materials for the history of the fur-trade.

The introductory chapter, which deals with the explorations of fur-traders to 1822, is the least satisfactory part of the book. The author is familiar with the fur-trade in the Missouri and Columbia valleys, but the southwest is a sealed book to him. The period before 1803 is given but slight attention, and the early history of Astor and the work of Choteau and De Munn are ignored. One important contribution is made in the chapter, for the author settles the question concerning the date of the discovery of South Pass.

In the second section Ashley's career up to 1824 is presented in a detailed narrative. When the author reaches the expedition of 1824-1825, he lets Ashley tell his own story in a letter to General Henry Atkinson, the document being taken from the Ashley manuscripts of the Missouri Historical Society. Professor Dale's intimate knowledge of the region traversed enabled him to do an unusually good piece of editing. The section closes with an account of Ashley's later career.

The third division, devoted to the life of Smith, is less satisfactory than that devoted to Ashley, not because the work is less carefully done, but because the sources are incomplete. Most of the space is taken up by three documents. The first is Smith's letter to General William Clark, which summarizes the expedition of 1826-1827. It has been printed twice before and was used by previous historians. Of more importance are the journals of Smith's clerk, Harrison G. Rogers, from the originals which belong to the Missouri Historical Society. The first journal tells of the sojourn of Smith's party at the San Gabriel mission and the journey eastward to San Bernardino. The second journal gives a detailed account of the movements of Smith's band from the Trinity River in California to the Umpqua River.

A few statements need correction. The government did not abandon its support of western exploration with the return of Lewis and Clark (p. 26); Pike was sent on his second expedition by Wilkinson and not by the government (p. 53); the Santa Fé road was surveyed, but not constructed, at government expense (pp. 291-292); the statement that

there was little in common between the fur-trade and the Santa Fé trade has been disproven (p. 293).

The book contains a reprint of Gallatin's map of 1826, and a map showing the routes of Ashley and Smith. It is to be regretted that Ashley's route of 1824-1825 was not shown on a larger scale. The author rejects the usual conception of Smith's return route from California in 1827, but the evidence in the text does not seem to justify the change. If Professor Dale had had at his disposal certain books and articles which are not listed in his bibliography, he would have been saved several of the errors and omissions which have been noted. The volume has an excellent index and is beautifully printed.

THOMAS MAITLAND MARSHALL.

Uncollected Letters of Abraham Lincoln. Now first brought together by GILBERT A. TRACY. With an Introduction by IDA M. TARBELL. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1917. Pp. xxi, 264. \$2.50.)

LINCOLN was no correspondent; he wrote only on occasion; every letter was an action. Like his acts, even the most minute are instinct with his individuality: as, "You request an autograph and here it is. A. Lincoln" (p. 148). Simple and naked of ornament, as he appears to be, yet almost every new scrap of evidence seems necessary to the complete picture; his reaction to every new angle of circumstance adds to our understanding of him. It is a real material contribution, therefore, when additional letters are published.

The present collection contains about three hundred, mostly short. The great majority are now printed for the first time, the place of previous printing being given where this is not the case. They run from October 6, 1836, to March 29, 1865. More than half fall between March 4, 1855, and March 4, 1861, the years of his great political activity. The relative importance of the contribution of this period is somewhat diminished by the fact that it contains most of the reprinted letters. The editing is well done.

There are many law letters, showing Lincoln's care and honesty, but of no other general interest. Yet there is an occasional flash. Who can fail to see "Mr. Isaac E. Button" whom he recommended to look after some real estate: "a trustworthy man and one whom the Lord made on purpose for such business" (p. 12). His earlier political letters show both his native sense of fair play, the careful exactness of his political methods, and his keen psychological insight. "In doing this, let nothing be said against Hardin . . . nothing deserves to be said against him" (p. 16). ". . . have made alphabetical lists of all the voters. . . . This will not be a heavy job, and you will see how, like a map, it lays the whole field before you" (p. 78). "He [Taylor] must occasionally say, or seem to say, 'by the Eternal', 'I take the